

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently amended) A bearing unit comprising:

a shaft;

a radial bearing for peripherally supporting the shaft;

a thrust bearing for supporting an end of the shaft in the thrusting direction thereof;

a space-forming member arranged outside the radial bearing and the thrust bearing;

a housing having the space-forming member in the inside ~~and~~, said housing being hermetically sealed except a shaft receiving hole through which the shaft is made to extend;

viscous fluid filled in the housing; and

a communication passage way arranged between the space-forming member and the radial bearing so as to make the end in the thrusting direction of the shaft projecting from the radial bearing and the other end of the shaft communicate with each other.

24. (Original) The bearing unit according to claim 23, wherein the communication passage way is a groove formed on the outer peripheral surface of the radial bearing in the thrust direction.

25. (Previously presented) The bearing unit according to claim 23, wherein the communication passage way includes a first groove formed on the outer peripheral surface of the radial bearing in the thrust direction, a second groove formed on an end facet of the radial bearing located at the side of the thrust bearing and a third groove formed on another end facet of the radial bearing.

26. (Previously presented) The bearing unit according to claim 23, wherein the housing is integrally formed as a molded body of synthetic resin.

27. (Original) The bearing unit according to claim 26, wherein the housing and the radial bearing are integrated by way of an opening arranged in the space-forming member.

28. (Previously presented) A rotary drive comprising the bearing unit for rotatably supporting a rotor relative to a stator, wherein the bearing unit is according to claim 23.

29. (Original) The rotary drive according to claim 28, wherein the housing of the bearing unit is integrally formed as a molded body of synthetic resin.